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Message Text

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22-11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 119633
O P 291030Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1599
INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 631
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6360

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, MY
SUBJ: KOREA IN THE 30TH UNGA - MALAYSIA

REF: STATE 254884

SUMMARY: MY EFFORT TO PERSUADE GOM TO CHANGE ITS POSITION ON KOREAN RESOLUTIONS WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN TURNED OVER TEXT OF HIS REPLY TO SECRETARY'S LETTER (FOLLOWING BY SEPTEL). HE SAID THAT SECRETARY'S VIEWS HAD BEEN GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND THAT MALAYSIA HAD DECIDED TO OPPOSE PRIORCPS('36OWDFCTO LUTION AND ABSTAIN ON SUBSTANCE BOTH RESOLUTIONS. MAIN REASON OF DECISION WAS GOM'S DESIRE TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE MEDIATING ROLE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. HE HINTED HE WOULD BE VISITING BOTH KOREAS EARLY NEXT YEAR WITH EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION AS PART OF HIS MISSION. I SET FORTH AGAIN IN STRONG TERMS OUR ARGUMENTS FOR NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION, POINTING OUT OUR DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING MALAYSIAN LACK OF RESPONSE CONSIDERING OUR FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE IN THE MATTER OF MILITARY SALES TO MEET MALAYSIA'S SECURITY NEEDS. RITHAUDDEEN REPEATED HIS RATIONAL FOR ABSTENTION AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOM WOULD NOT CHANGE. END SUMMARY.
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1. FONMIN RITHAUDDEEN OPENED OUR HOUR-LONG
MEETING ON THE KOREAN QUESTION BY HANDING OVER HIS
REPLY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER WHICH I HAD
DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 21. HE SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S
LETTER HAD BEEN GIVEN CAREFUL AND SOBER CONSIDERATION
AND THAT AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION A DECISION
HAD BEEN REACHED TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO GIVE THE
ALGERIAN RESOLUTION PRIORITY OUT OF TURN. ON THE
QUESTION OF SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER, GOM HAD CONFIRMED
ITS DECISION TO ABSTAIN BOTH ON THE ALGERIAN AND THE
FRENCH/CANADIAN RESOLUTIONS. THE GOM HAD DONE SO,
HE CONTINUED, TO PRESERVE ITS CAPACITY TO PLAY
A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN BRINGING THE TWO PARTS OF
KOREA INTO NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN. A VOTE AGAINST THE
ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE
NORTH A HOSTILE ACT AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR
MALAYSIA TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE. PROBLEM WILL NOT BE
RESOLVED IN THIS YEAR'S UNGA OR FOR MANY YEARS,
AND GOM FEELS THAT IT MUST PRESERVE ITS CAPACITY
TO ACT IN THE FUTURE. FONMIN THEN WENT ON TO HINT
THAT EARLY NEXT YEAR HE WAS PLANNING VISIT TO NORTH
AND SOUTH KOREA AT WHICH TIME PART OF HIS MISSION
WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES TO RESUME
DISCUSSIONS IN KEEPING WITH THE JULY 4, 1972 COMMUNIQUE.

2. I SAID THAT VOTING WOULD BEGIN IN THE FIRST
COMMITTEE IN ABOUT TWELVE HOURS AND THAT OUTCOME
OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION WOULD DEPEND ON A FEW VOTES.
ASEAN PARTICIPATION COULD VERY WELL BE DECISIVSMM
I REVIEWED AGAIN OUR STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE
ALGERIAN RESOLUTION AND OUR CONVICTION THAT SECURITY
IN NORTH ASIA MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED BY ITS PASSAGE.
I NOTED THAT WE HAD LAST WEEK INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS
TO MAKE MILITARY SALES TO MEET MALAYSIAN SECURITY
NEEDS AND GIVEN THIS POSITIVE RESPONSE,
WE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY MALAYSIA
DID NOT GIVE EQUALLY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO AN
ISSUE OF MAJOR SECURITY INTEREST TO THE U.S.

3. I SAID THAT AN ABSTENTION CONVEYED THE
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MESSAGE THAT MALAYSIA REGARDED THE CONFLICTING
RESOLUTION AS EQUIVALENT YET MINISTER HAD ADMITTED
THAT THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION WAS RIGID, UNREASONABLE
AND ILLOGICAL. PASSAGE OF THE UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTION
COULD HAVE NO OTHER EFFECT THAN TO CONFIRM AND
ENDORSE NORTH KOREAN INTRANSIGENCE AND RENDER EVEN
MORE DIFFICULT ANY MALAYSIAN EFFORT TO PLAY A MEDIATING
ROLE.

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4. I THEN REFERRED TO FONMIN'S RECENT UN DAY STATEMENT EXPRESSING REGRET THAT NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM HAD NOT BEEN ADMITTED TO THE UN. I REMINDED HIM THAT THE U.S. DID NOT OPPOSE THE ADMISSION OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM, BUT DID VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE THE DOCTRINE OF SELECTIVE UNIVERSALITY. NORTH KOREA HAD IN EFFECT VETOED THROUGH ITS PROXIES, THE USSR AND PRC, THE ADMISSION OF A COUNTRY HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE UN MEMBERS AND QUALIFIED IN EVERY WAY FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. THIS POSITION DEMONSTRATED FURTHER NORTH KOREA'S INSISTENCE THAT UNIFICATION OF THE PENINSULA CAME ONLY ON ITS TERMS.

5. THE FONMIN REPLIED BY RESTATING AT SOME LENGTH GOM'S RATIONAL FOR ABSTENTION ON BOTH SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED OUR ARGUMENTS BUT REMAINED CONVINCED THAT MALAYSIA COULD PLAY A MORE SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE BY HOLDING TO ITS POSITION.

6. COMMENT: FONMIN WAS CORDIAL AND RECEPTIVE, BUT I FOUND ABSOLUTELY NO GIVE. GOM SEEMS DETERMINED TO STAND BY ITS DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON SUBSTANTIVE VOTES ON KOREAN QUESTION.
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